



A World of Knowledge

**MAIN LIBRARY
CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
115 West C Street
Newton, NC 28658**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan. 16, 2008

CONTACT: Tammy Wilson, Public Information Officer
828-465-8661 twilson@catawbacountync.gov

Charlotte Symphony to headline BIG Read

NEWTON—The Charlotte Symphony Ensemble will appear April 26 at Maiden High School Auditorium as the culminating event for the BIG Read 2008. The 13-member group will accompany David Crowe's "Mill Village: A Piedmont Rhapsody," a multimedia tribute to textile mill villages and the people who lived and worked in them.

A panel discussion and reception will precede the musical presentation. The program will be free and open to the public.

"The evening will be a rare opportunity for local residents to hear and see the ensemble in person in Catawba County," said Karen Foss, director of Catawba County Library System which is serving as lead agency for the literacy project. "The program will be a fitting tribute not only to the author and his work, but as a unique blend of the literary, visual and musical arts."

Appearing on the panel besides composer David Crowe will be poet Barbara Presnell, Tom Hantchett, staff historian at the Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte; Phil Moody, photographer and professor of art at Winthrop University.

The BIG Read, a county-wide literacy project, focuses on *The Bridge*, a novel by Doug Marlette. Original plans were to bring the author to Newton next spring, but his untimely death forced cancellation of those plans. Organizers explored various possibilities before opting for the symphony program.

Foss said that the book was chosen because of its relevance to the area. Based on Marlette's own life, the novel unfolds as an extraordinary story within a story, as the lead character learns startling truths about himself and about the role his grandmother played in the General Textile Strike Of 1934.

Marlette, the Pulitzer-Prize winning cartoonist, died July 10 in a motor vehicle accident. A native of Greensboro, Marlette achieved world prominence through his career as a political cartoonist, and most recently, a novelist. The breadth of his career, particularly as it related to North Carolina during a stint with the *Charlotte Observer*, made him recognizable to local residents.

The Bridge is the first novel selected for The BIG Read. A series of guest speakers, films, displays and book discussions will support the reading project which is also endorsed by Lenoir-Rhyne College, Catawba Valley Community College and Hickory Public Library System. Other sponsors include the N.C. Arts Council, Unifour Foundation Inc. and United Arts Council of Catawba County.

###



A Service of Catawba County Government